

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

*The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.*

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A catheter for penetrating a stenotic lesion occurred in a lumen in a human body, including:

a linear wire; and

a tubular body placed on a distal end side of the wire and allowing a guide wire to be inserted through its hollow portion;

wherein said wire is metal and has a solid cross-section and a covering layer composed of a resin material covering an outside of the metal wire.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the wire has a surface layer composed of a hydrophilic material covering an outer surface of the wire.

4. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the tubular body includes a plurality of markers each having a visualization property arranged in a longitudinal direction.

5. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the tubular body has an inner layer positioned on an inner circumferential side, an outer layer formed on an outer circumferential side of the inner layer, and a reinforcing body placed between the inner layer and the outer layer.

6. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, further including an operation portion placed on a proximal end side of the wire.

7. (Original) The catheter according to claim 6, in which the operation portion can be adjusted and fixed for its position with respect to the wire.

8. (Original) The catheter according to claim 6, in which the operation portion is adhered to the wire.

9. (Currently Amended) The catheter according to claim 1, in which a center of the tubular body is placed with its center decentered with respect to a center of the wire.

10. (Original) The catheter according to claim 1, in which the wire is connected to the tubular body under a condition that a distal end portion of the wire partially overlaps with a proximal end portion of the tubular body.

11. (New) A catheter for penetrating a stenotic lesion in a lumen in a human body, the catheter comprising:

a linear wire having a distal end;

a tubular body having a distal end and a hollow portion adapted to receive a guide wire, the tubular body being secured to the wire so that the distal end of the tubular body is always located distally beyond the distal end of the wire; and

wherein the wire is metal and has a solid cross-section and a covering layer composed of a resin material covering an outside of the metal wire.

12. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, further comprising a coupling member which fixes the wire to the tubular body.

13. (New) The catheter according to claim 12, wherein the coupling member fixes together portions of the wire and the tubular body that overlap one another.

14. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, in which the wire has a surface layer composed of a hydrophilic material on the covering layer.

15. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the tubular body includes a plurality of markers each having a visualization property arranged in a longitudinal direction.

16. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the tubular body comprises an inner layer positioned on an inner circumferential side, an outer layer formed on an outer circumferential side of the inner layer, and a reinforcing body between the inner layer and the outer layer.

17. (New) The catheter according to claim 1, further comprising an operation portion at a proximal end side of the wire.

18. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the operation portion is adjustable relative to the wire to be fixed at a desired position with respect to the wire.

19. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the operation portion is adhered to the wire.

20. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, in which the tubular body and the wire are not coaxially disposed relative to each other.

21. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the wire is secured to the tubular body such that a distal end portion of the wire partially overlaps a proximal end portion of the tubular body in an axial direction.